A new species of *Sphenomorphus* (Squamata: Scincidae) from the Doberai Peninsula of New Guinea, with a redescription of *Sphenomorphus consobrinus* (Peters et Doria, 1878)

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Abstract: *Sphenomorphus dekkerae* sp. nov. is described from two specimens from Ayamaru on the Doberai Peninsula, collected in 1952. It is a member of the *Sphenomorphus maindroni* (Sauvage, 1879) species group, but its affinities to the other members of this species group are uncertain. Although it shows a superficial similarity to *S. consobrinus* of the Maluku Archipelago, it does not appear to be closely related to that species, which is not a member of the *S. maindroni* species group. *Sphenomorphus consobrinus* (Peters et Doria, 1878) is redescribed and illustrated.

Keywords: *Sphenomorphus*, new species, systematics, Doberai Peninsula, Maluku Archipelago, morphology.

Introduction

The herpetofauna of Indonesian New Guinea, representing the western half of the island of New Guinea, has until recently been neglected for nearly a century. Although it was the earlier half of the island to be collected by Europeans during the nineteenth century, the few collections made in the region during the twentieth century, mostly by Dutch expeditions, have remained poorly studied. Recent herpetological fieldwork in the area has concentrated on the frog fauna, resulting in the description of numerous new species (Blum & Menzies 1988; Günther 2000a; 2001; 2002a-b; 2003a-d; 2004a & b; 2006a-e; 2008a & b; 2009a & b; 2010; 2013; 2015; Günther & Knop 2006; Günther & Richards 2000; 2005a & b; Günther et al. 2001; 2009; 2010; 2012; 2016; Menzies 1987; Menzies et al. 2008; Oliver & Richards 2007; Oliver et al. 2007; 2012; Richards 2001; Richards & Iskandar 2000; 2001; 2006; Richards et al. 2009; Zweifel et al. 2005). In contrast, taxonomic work on the scincid lizard fauna has largely been based on historic collections, with revision of the two large genera *Emoia* Gray, 1845 (Brown 1991) and *Carlia* Gray, 1845 (Zug 2004) as part of New Guinea-wide revisions, and description of new species of *Lipinia* Gray, 1845 (Günther 2000b) and *Lobulia* Greer, 1974 (Greer et al. 2005). Only one paper, describing two new species of *Carlia* (Zug & Allison 2006) is predominantly based on recent collections of skinks from Indonesian New Guinea. The third large skink genus in New Guinea, *Sphenomorphus* Fitzinger, 1843, has not been the subject of a full regional revision since de Rooij (1915).

Thirteen currently recognised species of *Sphenomorphus* have been described from material from Indonesian New Guinea: *S. derooyae* (de Jong, 1927), *S. jobiensis* (Meyer, 1874), *S. longicaudatus* (de Rooij, 1915), *S. maindroni* (Sauvage, 1879), *S. mimikanus* (Boulenger, 1914), *S. minutus* (Meyer, 1874), *S. muelleri* (Schlegel, 1837), *S. nigriventris* (de Rooij, 1915), *S. oligolepis* (Boulenger, 1914), *S. fuscolineatus* Greer, Shea, 2004, *S. simus* (Sauvage, 1879), *S. undulatus* (Peters, Doria, 1878) and *S. wollastoni* (Boulenger, 1914). Of these, only *S. fuscolineatus* has been described in the past 80 years.

An additional five species, *S. meyeri* (Doria, 1874), *S. neuhaussi* (Vogt, 1911), *S. pratti* (Boulenger, 1903), *S. schultzei* (Vogt, 1911) and *S. solomonis* (Boulenger, 1887) have been reported from the region (de Rooij 1915; 1919; Greer & Parker 1974; Allison 2007a; Shea 2012).

During visits in 2000, 2013 and 2015, I examined the New Guinea *Sphenomorphus* in the collection of Naturalis, Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands (RMNH), which included collections made by and on behalf of Dutch expeditions during the 1930s and 1950s. Among the collections were two specimens of an undescribed *Sphenomorphus* from the Doberai Peninsula. These specimens had previously been recognised as an undescribed species by Dekker (1977) in a thesis, but no formal description was published at the time. Although the species was clearly distinct from all described New Guinea *Sphenomorphus*, the proximity of the Doberai Peninsula to the Maluku Archipelago required comparison of the new species with *Sphenomorphus* reported from that region as well. One species, *S. consobrinus* (Peters, Doria, 1878), described from Pulau Bacan, and subsequently reported from Halmahera (Boettger 1895; 1902) and Morotai (Tanner 1950), showed some similarity to the new species in scalation and body proportions, although published descriptions of this species provided only limited detail. Examination of material of this species, including most of the specimens reported by Boettger (1895) and Tanner (1950) as well as the types, has confirmed the distinction between the two species, which are not closely related. This paper describes the new species and provides a detailed redescription and the first illustrations of *S. consobrinus*.

Materials and methods

Collection codons follow Leviton et al. (1985).

Head scale nomenclature mostly follows Taylor (1935). Subocular scales are the enlarged scales bordering the dorsal border of the supralabial scale below the centre of the eye, and between the posteriormost presubocular and the anteriormost postsubocular. The postsupraocular is as defined by Greer & Shea (2004). In a few instances, there is inconsistency among authors in the nomenclature of scales bordering the eye. Greer (1982) and Sadlier (1984) refer to the first of Taylor's presuboculars as the lower of two preoculars. Greer (1983) uses the term pretemporal for two scales that would represent the posteriormost supraciliary and the dorsalmost postsubocular of Taylor. I maintain Taylor's nomenclature in this paper, but note the equivalence of Greer's nomenclature for the scales at the posterior corner of the eye. Head scales are numbered from anterior to posterior.

Midbody scales are counted at the mid-point of the axilla-groin interval; paravertebral scales are counted on the left side of the midline from the first scale posterior to the parietals to the last scale anterior to the level of the hind limbs, with limbs held at right angles to the body; subdigital scales are counted on the fourth toe from the base of the crease between third and fourth toes, to and including the terminal sheathing scale at the tip of the claw.

Measurements were made with the structure held straight against a steel rule, or (for head measurements) with dial callipers, both sets of measurements taken with the instrument examined under a dissecting microscope to ensure correct placement. Head measurements are to the nearest 0.1 mm; other measurements are to the nearest 0.5 mm. Snout-vent length (SVL) is from tip of snout to posterior edge of median precloacal scales, along the ventral surface; axilla-groin length (AGL) is from the posterior junction between forelimb and body wall, to the anterior junction between hindlimb and body wall, with the limbs held at right angles to the body axis; forelimb length (FLL) and hindlimb length (HLL) are from the medial extremity of the posterior crease between limb and body wall, to the tip of the claw, with the limb held at right angles to the body; head length (HL) is from the tip of the snout obliquely to the anteriormost margin of the external ear aperture; head width (HW) is at the widest point of the head, and head depth (HD) is at the deepest point of the head over the parietal table, including the lower jaw, at right angles to the labial margin.

Taxonomic part

***Sphenomorphus dekkerae* sp. nov.** (Figs 1-2, plate 4 figs 1-2, plate 6 figs 1-2)

http://zoobank.org/D595665F-7C98-43E4-A11C-73EEE595CC73

Holotype: RMNH.RENA 30144, Ajamaroe [= Ayamaru], Vogelkop [= Doberai Peninsula], [Maybrat Regency, West Papua Province, Indonesia]. Collected by Leo D. Brongersma and Willem J. Roosdorp in June 1952.

Paratype: RMNH.RENA 30145, data as for holotype.

Derivatio nominis: The species is named for Ms Els J. Dekker, who first recognised its distinctive morphology in 1977.

Diagnosis: A small *Sphenomorphus* (SVL of both mature specimens 50 mm), differing from all other members of the genus in the combination of postsupraocular present, and no division of temporal scalation (primary, upper secondary and lower secondary temporal scales single, last two supralabials undivided), but with the appearance of a divided penultimate supralabial created by enlargement of the second postsubocular, intruding between penultimate supralabial and primary temporal.

Description: Scalation: Rostral with a prominent broad dorsal lobe with convex apex, moderately separating nasals; nostril in centre of nasal; supranasals and postnasals absent; prefrontals moderately (holotype) to very narrowly (paratype) separated, supraoculars four, first two in contact with the frontal; frontoparietals in broad medial contact; interparietal with parietal eye at junction of third and fourth quarter of length; parietals in broad medial contact behind interparietal; transversely dilated nuchals usually absent (a single enlarged nuchal on the right side in the paratype), each parietal bordered by upper secondary temporal, a paravertebral, and one (n = 3) or two (n = 1) intervening scales; supraciliaries 10 (holotype) - 10L/11R (paratype), first usually narrowly separated from frontal (in narrow contact unilaterally on the holotype), the penultimate and last supraciliary each divided into an upper and lower scale (the upper part of the penultimate supraciliary projects strongly medially, and appears as a “fifth” supraocular, the lower part representing the upper postocular of Taylor (1935), the lower part of the last supraciliary equivalent to the anterior pretemporal of Greer (1983), and the upper part of the last supraciliary, medially contacting the frontoparietal, representing the postsupraocular of Greer and Shea (2004); anterior and posterior loreals equal in height, the anterior much taller than wide, the posterior about as wide as tall at the top, but much narrower at the base, the anterior loreal divided into an upper and lower scale bilaterally in the paratype; preocular single, wedged between first supraciliary and anterior presuboculars, excluded from contact with the prefrontal by contact between posterior loreal and first supraciliary, and followed by one or two small imbricate scales between supraciliary row and upper eyelid; presuboculars three, strongly interdigitating with the supralabial row; suboculars two; postsuboculars 4-5 (mean = 4.75, SD = 0.5, n = 4), the second postsubocular protruding posteriorly between the penultimate supralabial and primary temporal to create the impression of a divided penultimate supralabial (however, in other members of the S. *maindroni* species group, division of this supralabial involves creation of an upper scale overlapped by the lower scale, rather than overlapping the lower scale, as seen here); lower eyelid scaly, the scales along the palpebral row small, interdigitating with taller scales below, the central tall scales noticeably broader than those anterior and posterior; supralabials seven, fifth below centre of eye; postsupralabials two; primary temporal single; upper secondary temporal single (divided into an anterior and posterior scale on left side of holotype) and overlapping the single large lower secondary temporal; lower secondary temporal overlapping upper postlabial and a tall tertiary temporal; ear elliptical, with long axis vertical to posterodorsally oblique; long axis of ear shorter than width of eye, but longer than height of eye; lobules along anterior margin of ear absent; tympanum thin, deeply sunk; infralabials six; postmental usually in contact with a single infralabial on each side (holotype contacting two on right side only); first pair of chin shields in median contact; second pair of chin shields separated by a median scale; third chin shield on each side divided into a lateral and medial scale, and medially separated by three scales; all three pairs of chin shields laterally in contact with the infralabials. Body scales glossy, in 30 (holotype)-33 (paratype) longitudinal rows at midbody; scales in paravertebral rows slightly broader than adjacent dorsal scale rows, 53 (holotype)-58 (paratype); medial pair of preanal scales overlap lateral preanals; scales above fourth digit basally in three or four rows, paired over most of length of digit, only the two terminal scales single; lamellae below fourth toe 20-22 (mean = 21.0, sd = 0.82, n = 4), grooved to distinguish a bluntly keeled larger preaxial series from a narrower, low postaxial series; a sharp line of demarcation between large granular scales of sole and imbricate scales of dorsum of foot posteriorly between fourth and fifth toe.

Osteology: presacral vertebrae 26; phalangeal formula of manus and pes 2.3.4.5.3 and 2.3.4.5.4 respectively. Premaxillary teeth 9.

Measurements: The mature male holotype, with turgid testes, has SVL 50 mm, AGL 25 mm, FLL 13 mm, HLL 19 mm; HL 11 mm; HW 8.5 mm; HD 6.7 mm. The tail is regenerated. The ovigerous female paratype has SVL 50 mm; AGL 25.5 mm; FLL 12 mm; HLL 17.5 mm; HL 10.4 mm; HW 7.6 mm; HD 4.6 mm. The tail is missing. Combined, AGL/SVL = 0.5-0.51; FLL/SVL = 0.24-0.26; HLL/SVL = 0.35-0.38; sum of limb lengths/AGL = 1.16-1.28; HL/SVL = 0.21-0.22; HW/HL = 0.73-0.77; HD/HL = 0.44-0.61 (the lower head depth value for the paratype may be a preservation artefact).

Coloration (in preservative): Pale dorsal ground colour light yellow-brown, largely obscured by coarse dark red-brown variegations, leaving small pale spots on head, and irregular, broken narrow pale transverse markings on body becoming more complete and regular on tail. Face laterally brown mottled, including labials (paratype), or with lower parts paler (holotype); neck and body upper laterally like dorsum, but with darker variegations slightly darker, giving a weak impression of a broad dark upper lateral stripe containing pale spots. Lower laterally, neck and body yellow with weak coarse mid-brown variegations. Tail laterally similar to dorsum. Ventrally, yellow-cream, throat immaculate (holotype) or with weak mid-brown flecking and a few variegations more laterally (paratype). Limbs above dark brown with small pale spots; below as for body venter; plantar and palmar surfaces light brown.

Reproduction: The female paratype has a single shelled egg in each oviduct.

Type locality: The species was collected by Leo Daniel Brongersma and his assistant Willem Johannes Roosdorp (Hoogmoed 1995; 2000), on the first of several field trips by Brongersma to Dutch New Guinea in the 1950s (Frodin 2007). Ajamaroe (now Ayamaru), located at approximately 1°16'S 132°11'E (Fig. 2), is on the south west shore of Jow, the westernmost of the Ajamaru Lakes on the Doberai Peninsula, at an altitude of approximately 300 m; the area at the time of collection of the types is described and illustrated by Boeseman (1963). It is not known whether the types were collected from the lower marshy habitat on the lake shore, or the forested hilly country surrounding the lake, but I suspect the latter is the more likely habitat, based on known habitat preferences of other members of the *Sphenomorphus maindroni* species group. Further details of the region have been provided to me by Dmitry Telnov, who visited the area in 2015 (Telnov, pers. comm.). The lakes are surrounded by limestone karst, which takes the form of rounded limestone mounds covered in a low but dense dry sclerophyll whipstick forest on skeletal soils (Plate 6 figs 1-2). The eastern lakes have dried out and been replaced with grassland, while the western lake is much less extensive, with the exposed former lake bed now covered by grassland, with small trees along drainage channels entering the lake.

Comparison with other species: The presence of a postsupraocular scale places this species in the *S. maindroni* group of Greer and Shea (2004). Within this group, *S. dekkerae* would key to couplet 19 using the key provided by Greer and Shea (2004), along with *S. brunneus*, *S. loriae, S. oligolepis* and *S. solomonis*. Of these four species, only *S. solomonis* occurs on the Doberai Peninsula (de Rooij 1915; Greer 1973; Greer & Parker 1974). *Sphenomorphus dekkerae* sp. nov. may be differentiated from all four species in having no division of either of the last two supralabials, 10-11 supraciliaries (*vs* a mode of 8-9 in the other four species), and a more strongly and evenly defined pattern of dark markings on body dorsum and flanks, with a generally transverse orientation (*vs* sparser, less continuous pattern, and with generally longitudinal orientation). *Sphenomorphus oligolepis*, *S. brunneus* and *S. solomonis* have the last supralabial divided, the penultimate supralabial undivided, the primary temporal usually undivided (modally divided in some populations of *S. solomonis*) and the upper and lower secondary temporals undivided; the division of the last supralabial is into an upper and lower scale, the upper overlapping the lower, and the two scales together covering the same field as the last supralabial of *S. dekkerae*). *Sphenomorphus loriae* has further division of scales in this region. It may further be differentiated from *S. oligolepis* by having more numerous subdigital lamellae (20-22 *vs* 9-12) and midbody scales (30-33 *vs* 24-26), but fewer paravertebral scales (53-58 *vs* 60-69), from *S. loriae* by having fewer paravertebral scales (*vs* 86-92), more subdigital lamellae (*vs* 13-16), and the postmental contacting only a single infralabial on each side (*vs* two), from *S. brunneus* in having more numerous subdigital lamellae (*vs* 15-21) and midbody scales (*vs* 25-28), and only the first pair of chin shields in contact (*vs* first two pairs in median contact). From populations of *S. solomonis* on the Doberai Peninsula and adjacent islands, *S. dekkerae* additionally differs in its smaller size (SVL 50 mm *vs* up to 79 mm), fewer paravertebral scales (*vs* 58-71), and more numerous subdigital lamellae (*vs* 12-20). These differences reflect the relatively longer limbs and shorter trunk of *S. dekkerae* (sum of limb lengths/AGL 115.7-128.0% *vs* 67.8-93.1%, mean = 80.9%, n = 27, for mature-sized *S. solomonis* from the region). One other described member of the *S. maindroni* species group occurs on the Doberai Peninsula, *S. maindroni* itself. This species may be differentiated from *S. dekkerae*, with which it shares a transversely oriented dorsal pattern of broader dark markings and narrow pale markings, by the more complete nature of the pale bands, by having broadly contacting prefrontal scales, the first two pairs of chin shields in contact, multiple pairs of nuchal shields, more numerous paravertebral scales (60-69) and paravertebral scale rows much broader than those

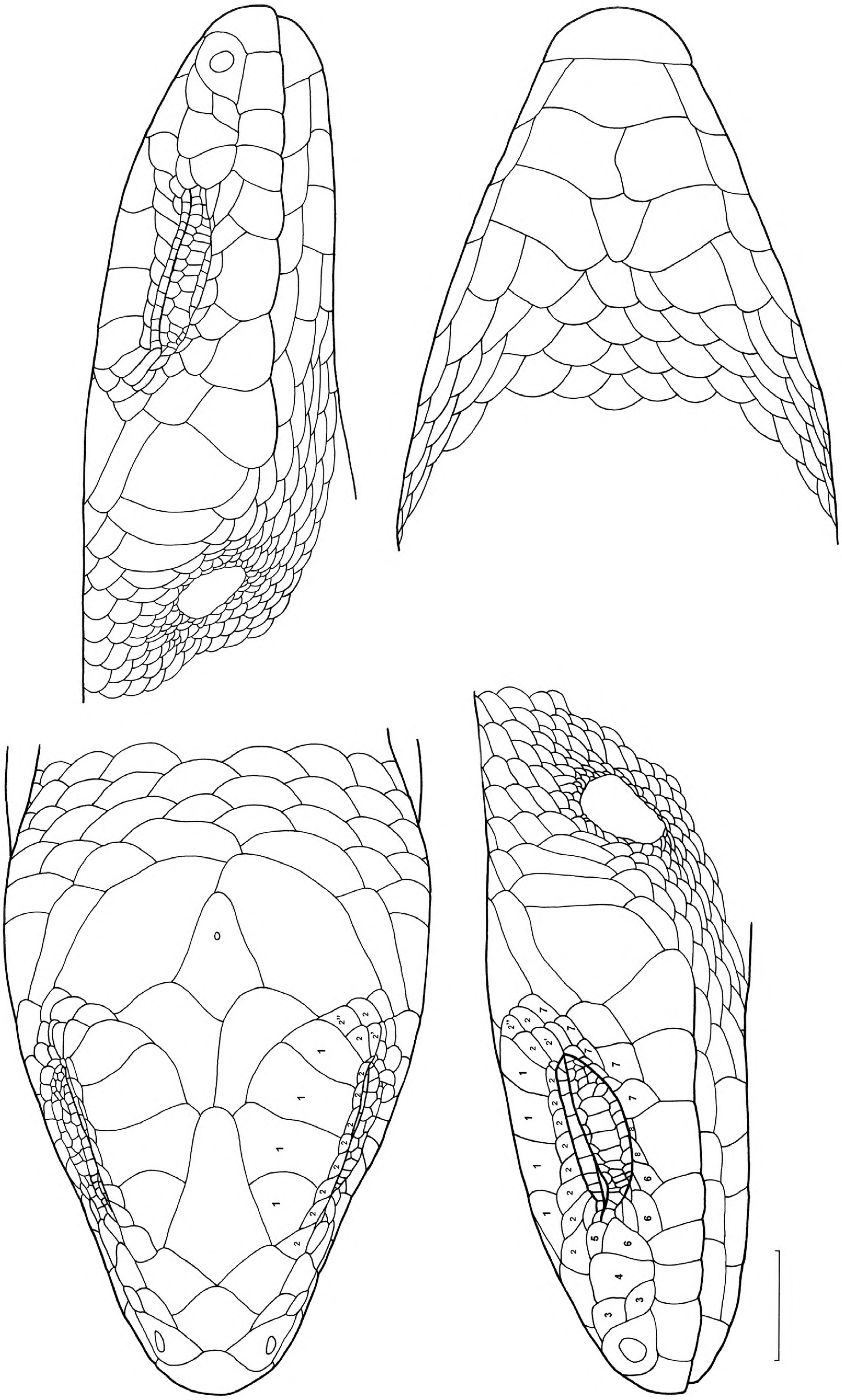


Figure 1. Head shields of paratype of *Sphenomorphus dekkerae* sp. nov. in top, left and right side, and ventral view respectively. Circumocular scalation identified by numbers: 1 – Supraoculars; 2 – Supraciliaries (2' – Division of penultimate supraciliary, equivalent to upper postocular; 2" – Division of last supraciliary, equivalent to postsupraocular); 3 – Anterior loreal; 4 – Posterior loreal; 5 – Preocular; 6 – Presuboculars; 7 – Postsupraoculars; 8 – Suboculars [scale bar 2 mm].

lateral to them. Of species occurring in the Maluku Archipelago to the west of the Doberai Peninsula, only *S. consobrinus* is similar to *S. dekkerae*. The two species have similar body proportions, seven supralabials, grooved subdigital lamellae (like most New Guinea *Sphenomorphus*), undivided temporal scales and modally lack nuchal scales (occasionally having one nuchal unilaterally), but differ in that *S. consobrinus* lacks a postsupraocular scale, has no division of the supralabial scales, has broadly contacting prefrontal scales, the postmental contacting the first two infralabials on each side, and has the second and third pair of chin shields separated from the infralabials by an oblique row of interposed scales, and is much smaller (maximum SVL 38 mm). Further, as reported by Greer (1977), *S. consobrinus* has only a single oviduct, while *S. dekkerae*, like most *Sphenomorphus*, has two.

***Sphenomorphus consobrinus* (Peters et Doria, 1878)** (Fig. 3, plate 5 figs 1-2)

Syntypes 7 specimens: MSNG 27875, Batjan [= Pulau Bacan], collected by Antonie Augustus Bruijn in 1875 (Capocaccia, 1961). While Bruijn's localities are often imprecise or incorrect (Heij 2011), there would seem to be no reason to doubt the type locality in this case, as it is close to other known localities for the species.

References: *Lygosoma* (*Hinulia*) *consobrinum* Peters et Doria, 1878: 342.

Redescription. Diagnosis: A very small *Sphenomorphus* (maximum SVL 38 mm), with last two supralabials, primary and upper and lower secondary temporals undivided, postsupraocular absent, lamellae below fourth toe grooved, and second and third pair of chin shields separated from infralabials by an interposed row of oblique scales.

Description: Scalation: Rostral with a prominent broad dorsal lobe with convex apex, moderately separating nasals; nostril in centre of nasal; supranasals and postnasals absent; prefrontals usually in moderate to broad medial contact (n = 14 of 17), rarely narrow contact, point contact or narrowly separated (one specimen each); supraoculars four, first two in contact with the frontal; frontoparietals in broad medial contact; interparietal with parietal eye at junction of second and third third of length; parietals in broad medial contact behind interparietal; transversely dilated nuchals 0-2 on each side, usually absent (n = 17 of 22 sides), each parietal bordered by and overlapping the upper secondary temporal, a paravertebral scale, and no (n = 1), one (n = 6) or two (n = 3) intervening scales; supraciliaries 7-9, usually eight (9 of 14 sides), first in point to narrow contact with frontal, the penultimate divided into an upper and lower scale (the upper part of which does not project strongly medially, and the lower part equivalent to the upper postocular of Taylor, 1935), and the last representing the anterior pretemporal of Greer (1983); anterior and posterior loreals each single, equal in height,

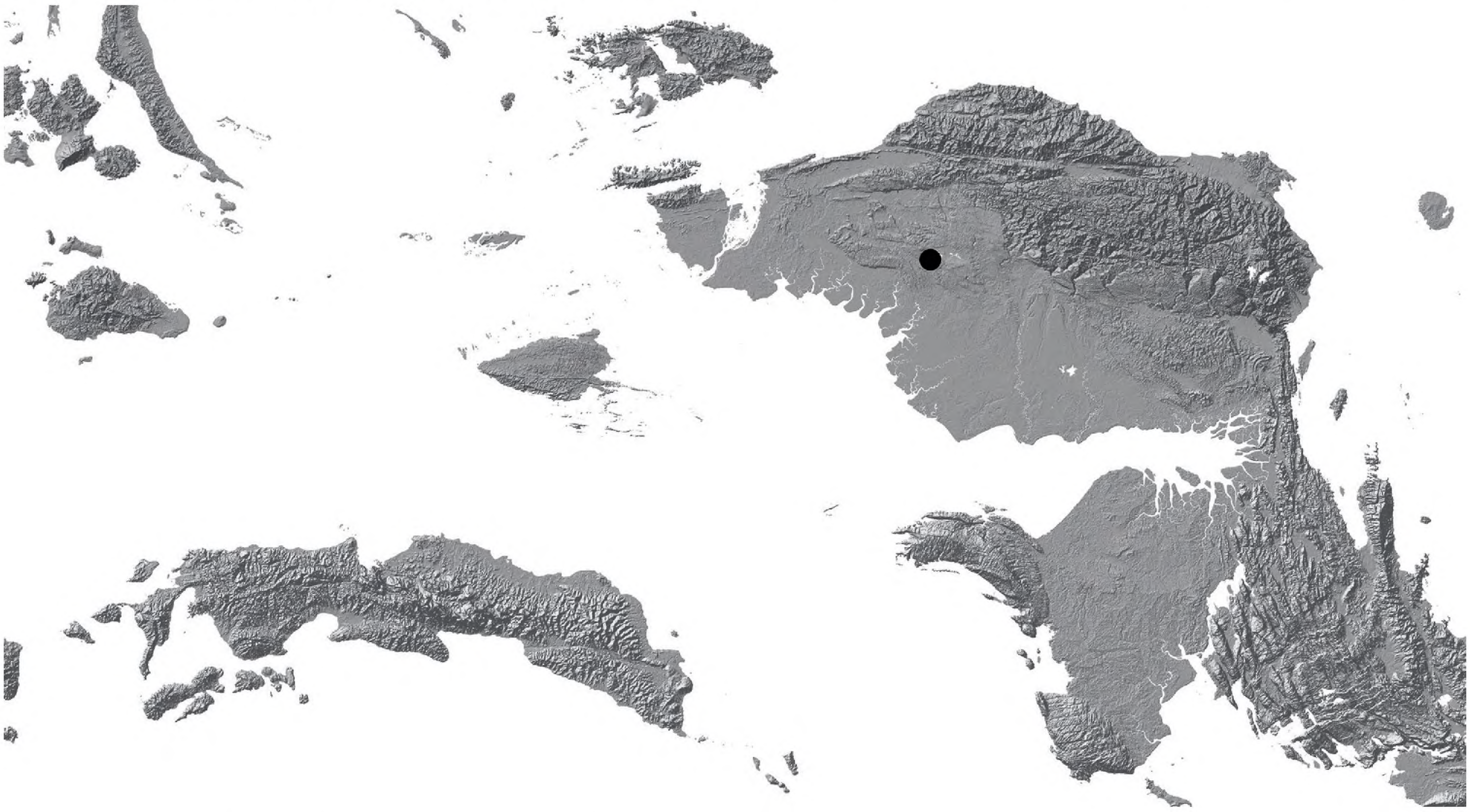


Figure 2. Position of type locality of *Sphenomorphus dekkerae* sp. nov. on Doberai Peninsula.

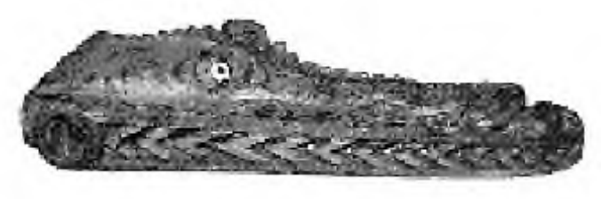
the anterior taller than wide, the posterior a little wider at the top, but slightly narrower at the base; preocular single, wedged between first supraciliary and anterior presuboculars, excluded from contact with the prefrontal by contact between posterior loreal and first supraciliary, and followed by two small imbricate scales between supraciliary row and upper eyelid; presuboculars usually three (18 of 22 sides) or four, strongly interdigitating with the supralabial row; suboculars one (10 of 22 sides) or two; postsuboculars four (11 of 22 sides) or five, first strongly interdigitating with supralabials, last equivalent to posterior pretemporal of Greer (1983); lower eyelid scaly, the scales along the palpebral row small, interdigitating with taller scales below, the central tall scales only slightly broader than those anterior and posterior; supralabials seven (n = 32 of 34 sides) or eight, fifth (or sixth, when a total of eight) below centre of eye, between last presuboculars and first postsubocular, last two undivided; postsupralabials two; primary temporal single (divided into an upper and lower scale bilaterally in one individual); upper secondary temporal single and overlapping the single large lower secondary temporal; lower secondary temporal overlapping upper postlabial and a tall tertiary temporal; ear elliptical, with long axis vertical; long axis of ear shorter than width of eye, but equal to height of eye; lobules along anterior margin of ear absent; tympanum thin, deeply sunk; infralabials seven; postmental in contact with first two infralabials on each side (bilaterally one on one individual); first pair of chin shields in medial contact; second pair of chin shields separated by a median scale; third pair of chin shields medially separated by three scales; laterally, only first pair of chin shields in contact with infralabials, second and third pairs separated from infralabials by one row of oblique scales. Body scales glossy, in 29-34 longitudinal rows at midbody (mean = 31.4, sd = 2.37, n = 17); scales in paravertebral rows very slightly broader than adjacent dorsal scale rows, 47-56 (mean = 50.3, sd = 3.15, n = 16) from first scale behind parietal to level of anterior margin of hindlimb; medial pair of preanal scales overlap lateral preanals; body scales apparently loosely attached to underlying subcutis, as many specimens have patches of dorsal, lateral or ventral scales torn away ("tear-away scales" of Greer 1986, previously only reported for some *Lerista* and *Ctenotus* species among skinks); scales above fourth digit basally in 3-4 rows, three over most of the proximal phalanx, paired from the base of the second phalanx, and with only the two or three terminal scales single; lamellae below fourth toe 17-25 (mean = 20.2, sd = 1.99, n = 33), grooved to distinguish a larger and more projecting preaxial series from a narrower, low postaxial series; a sharp line of demarcation between large granular scales of sole and imbricate scales of dorsum of foot posteriorly between fourth and fifth toe.

Osteology: presacral vertebrae 26; postsacral vertebrae 35 (n = 1); phalangeal formula of manus and pes 2.3.4.5.3 and 2.3.4.5.4 respectively. Premaxillary teeth 9 (n = 1).

Measurements: SVL 22-38.5 mm (n = 16, only two less than 30.5 mm); AGL/SVL = 0.451-0.526 (mean = 0.476, n = 11); FLL/SVL = 0.211-0.295 (mean = 0.244, n = 11) ; HLL/SVL = 0.342-0.422 (mean = 0.388, n = 11); sum of limb lengths/AGL = 1.050-1.550, mean = 1.323, n = 11); HL/SVL = 0.200-0.264 (mean = 0.220, n = 11); HW/HL = 0.654-0.716 (mean = 0.685, n = 11; HD/HL = 0.455-0.554 (mean = 0.513, n = 10).

Coloration (in preservative): Pale dorsal ground colour yellow-brown, overlain by sparse but coarse dark brown bars and blotches, which may coalesce to form weak irregular dark transverse bands. Tail dorsum may be similar or immaculate pale. A narrow dark brown upper lateral stripe or zone beginning indistinctly across loreals, then from postoculars, above ear, and along neck and body, breaking into a series of dark blotches near groin and onto tail base. Stripe has irregular margins and variably contains pale spots, and is narrowly bordered above with pale yellow on neck and sometimes further posteriorly. Lower laterally, face, body and tail yellow to cream with weak, sparse brown reticulum or spotting. Labial scales with dark brown margins. Venter yellow to cream, throat with sparse thin brown streaks, body and tail immaculate. Limbs dark brown with small yellow spots dorsally, yellow/cream below; palmar and plantar surfaces light brown, fading to yellow.

Differential diagnosis: The absence of a postsupraocular scale excludes this species from the *S. maindroni* group. It differs from *Glaphyromorphus* Wells, Wellington, 1984 species, which it otherwise superficially resembles, and most *Sphenomorphus* species outside New Guinea in having grooved subdigital lamellae. It further differs from almost all *Sphenomorphus* species in the Indonesian archipelago and New Guinea in having no fragmentation of the temporal and posterior supralabial scales. Only *S. buettikoferi* (Lidth de Jeude, 1905), *S. capitolythos* Shea & Michels, 2008 (replacement name for *S. keiensis* (Kopstein, 1926)) and *S. rufus* (Boulenger,



1887) among the Indonesian species agree with *S. consobrinus* in having a generally primitive temporal configuration consisting of a single primary temporal, single lower secondary temporal, single upper secondary temporal overlapping the lower, and last two supralabials undivided. *Sphenomorphus consobrinus* differs from all three of these species in having the second and third chin shields separated from the infralabials by a single row of oblique scales.

Discussion

The description of *Sphenomorphus dekkerae* adds a third reptile species only known from the lowlands of the western side of the Doberai Peninsula. Previously, Brongersma (1953) described *Lygosoma* (*Leiolopisma*) *venemai* (now *Lipinia venemai*) from the same region as *S. dekkerae*, and earlier (Brongersma 1930) he described *Gehyra leopoldi* from the vicinity of Sorong. I am aware of at least one other *Sphenomorphus* awaiting description from the Ayamaru area. In a review of areas of endemism in Indonesian Papua, Allison (2007b) did not identify the western lowlands of the Doberai Peninsula. Instead, the identified areas of endemism in Indonesian New Guinea were mostly high altitude ranges and islands. However, the recognised areas of endemism largely parallel the areas of Indonesian New Guinea that have been subject to collection, with large intervening areas from which few or no species are known, and may instead reflect collection intensity rather than endemism.

Specimens examined

Sphenomorphus brunneus Greer, Parker, 1974

Material examined: 151 specimens, MCZ R83332-34, R99958-69, R99974-93, R100514-48, R101418-47, R101453-83, Karimui, Simbu Province, PNG; R90200-04, Bomai, Tive Plateau, Simbu Province, PNG; R101186, Uraru, Gulf Province, PNG; R101485, Weiana, Gulf Province, PNG; R101486-87, between Camp III and Weiana, Gulf Province, PNG; R101500-01, R102539, Oroi [= Orloli], Gulf Province, PNG; R102169, Ining River at Soliabedo, Simbu Province, PNG; R105552, Iudo, Simbu Province, PNG; 130884, Soliabedo, Simbu Province, PNG; R141061-62, Emeti, Western Province, PNG; R146039, Erare, Southern Highlands Province, PNG; R150866, 30km N, 14 km W Kikori, Kikori River, Gulf Province, PNG.

Sphenomorphus buettikoferi (van Lidth de Jeude, 1905)

Material examined: 3 specimens, RMNH.RENA 4471, 30753-54 (syntypes), Mount Liang Koeboeng, Borneo [= Gunung Liang Kubung, Sintang Regency, West Kalimantan].

Sphenomorphus capitolythos Shea, Michels, 2008

Material examined: 1 specimen, RMNH.RENA 5088 (holotype), Elat, Gross-Kei [= Elat, Pulau Kei Besar, Southeast Maluku Regency].

Sphenomorphus consobrinus (Peters, Doria, 1878)

Material examined: 23 specimens, MSNG 27875 (n = 7, syntypes), SMF 14455, MCZ 33531 (ex SMF), Batjan [= Pulau Bacan]; SMF 14457-58, 14460, Patani, [Central Halmahera Regency], Halmahera; USNM 159970, Wama airstrip, [Pulau] Morotai, 237660, Jikodolong, Pulau Obi; BYU 7598-7600, 7789, 8896, MCZ 93394-95 (ex BYU 7735, 7742, respectively), CAS SU11958 (ex BYU), CM 25531, Pulau Morotai.

Sphenomorphus loriae (Boulenger, 1897)

Material examined: 8 specimens, BMNH 1946.8.3.39 (formerly 97.12.10.26, syntype), MSNG 29114a-b (syntypes), Moroka, Central Province, PNG; UPNG 1028-32, Efogi, Central Province, PNG.

Sphenomorphus maindroni (Sauvage, 1879)

Material examined: 7 specimens, MNHP 5267 (holotype), Haas [= Wasei, Sorong Regency, Doberoi Peninsula]; MSNG unregistered, Sorong, [Doberai Peninsula]; RMNH.RENA 7296, Fak Fak; 29879, Erokwari [= Erokwero, Doberai Peninsula]; 29880, Pasir Poetih, Manokwari, [Doberai Peninsula]; 29881, Base, Biak I. [= Pulau Biak]; 30146, Ajamaroe [= Ayamaru].

Sphenomorphus oligolepis (Boulenger, 1914)

Material examined: 6 specimens, BMNH 1946.8.3.47-48 (formerly 1913.10.31.175-176, syntypes), Mimika River; RMNH.RENA 10364, Boven-Digoel [= Tanah Merah, Boven-Digoel Regency], 18365, Bivak I., Lorentz River [= Pulau Bivak, Sungai Unir, Asmat Regency], 29877, Takum, Kamp Nijob [= Nyop, Takum River, Boven-Digoel Regency], 29978, Tanah Merah, [Boven-Digoel Regency].

Sphenomorphus rufus (Boulenger, 1887)

Material examined: 1 specimen, BMNH 1946.8.16.92 (formerly 82.8.29.186, holotype), Wokan, Aru Islands [= Pulau Wokam, Kepulauan Aru Regency].

Sphenomorphus solomonis (Boulenger, 1887)

Material examined: 33 specimens, RMNH.RENA 42826, 48360-66, Ajamaroe [= Ayamaru]; 42827, 15 km E of Ajamaroe; 47829-30, Seta, [= Setta, Maybrat

Regency, Doberai Peninsula]; 48335, Manokwari, [Doberai Peninsula]; 48336, 48353-55, Djidmaoe [= Jitmau], 15 km E of Ajamaroe, [Maybrat Regency, Doberai Peninsula]; 48337, Kotjewere [= Kotjewer, Doberai Peninsula]; 48338, Komara, [Doberai Peninsula]; 48339, 48343, Base, Biak I. [= Pulau Biak]; 48341, Erokwera [= Erokwero, Doberai Peninsula]; 48342, Ambaidiroe [= Ambiadiru, Pulau Yapen]; 48344-49,48386-87, Seroei [= Serui, Pulau Japen]; 48352, Kamboeaja [= Kambuaya, Maybrat Regency, Doberai Peninsula]; 48356-57, Kameri, Noemfoor I. [= Pulau Numfoor].

Acknowledgements

I thank Marinus Hoogmoed (formerly RMNH) for allowing me to examine and subsequently borrow for further examination the two types of the new species, as well as other comparative material, and

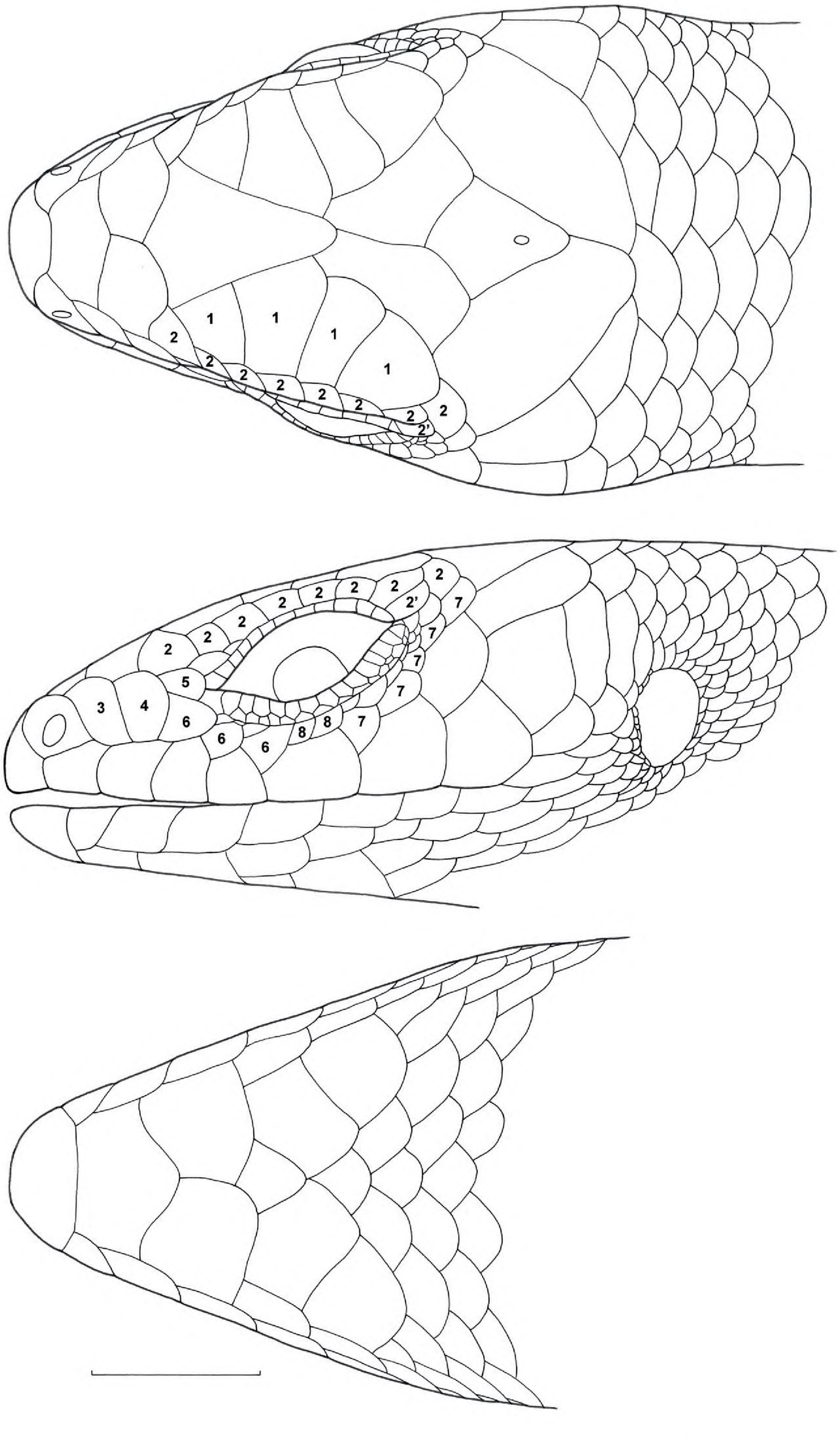


Figure 3. Head shields of *Sphenomorphus consobrinus* (Peters et Doria, 1878) (SMF 14457). Circumocular scalation identified by same numbers as in Fig. 1 [scale bar 2 mm].

Pim Arntzen, Esther Dondorp, and Ronald de Ruiter for assistance on my subsequent visits to the RMNH collection. Gunther Köhler (SMF), Colin McCarthy (BMNH), Steve Rodgers (CM) Jack Sites (BYU) and George Zug (USNM) kindly loaned comparative material, while Jose Rosado (MCZ), Guiliano Doria (MSNG) and Rose Singuadan (UPNG) allowed me to examine material in those collections. Maria Bruna Invernici and Massimo Petri assisted during my visit to the MSNG collection. Dmitry Telnov (The Entomological Society of Latvia, Rīga) provided notes and photographs of the Ayamaru region based on his visits to the area. Bozena Jantulik prepared the final versions of the head drawings, and Carl Bento (Australian Museum, Sydney) provided the photograph for plate.

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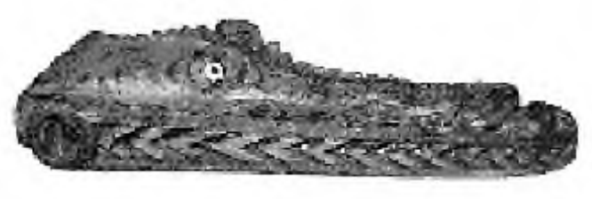

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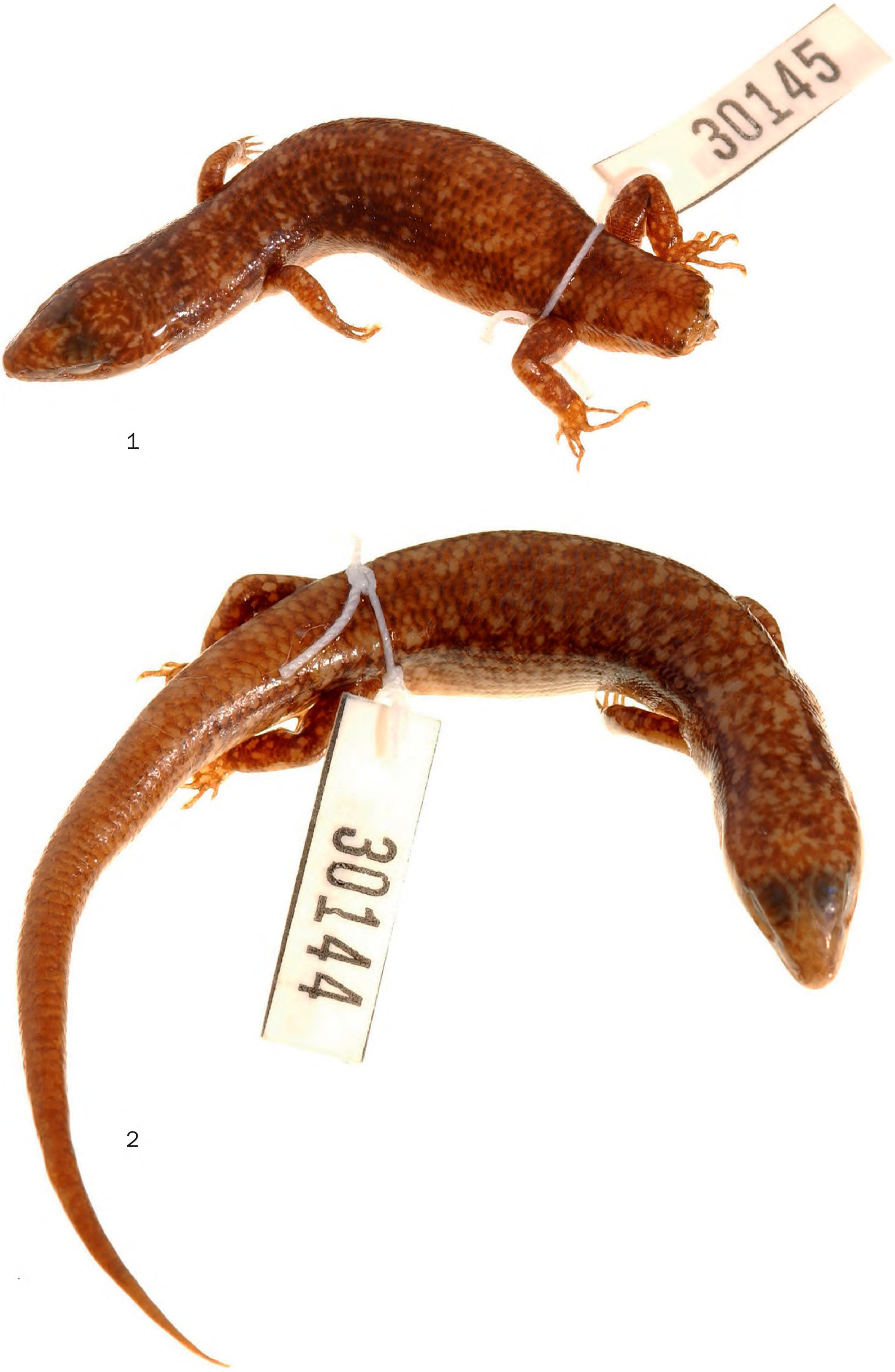
Received: 19.01.2017.

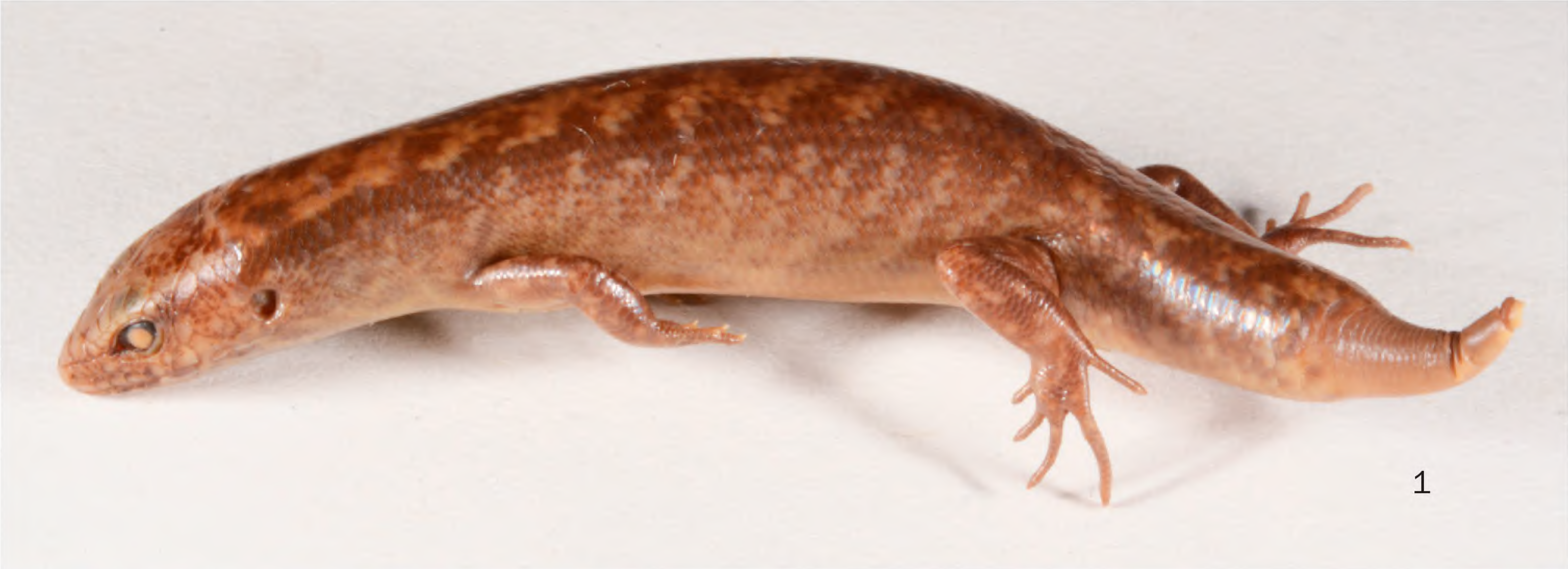
Plate 4

SHEA, G.M.: A new species of *Sphenomorphus* (Squamata: Scincidae) from the Doberai Peninsula ...



Figures 1-2. *Sphenomorphus dekkerae* sp. nov. 1 – Paratype; 2 – Holotype.

Plate 5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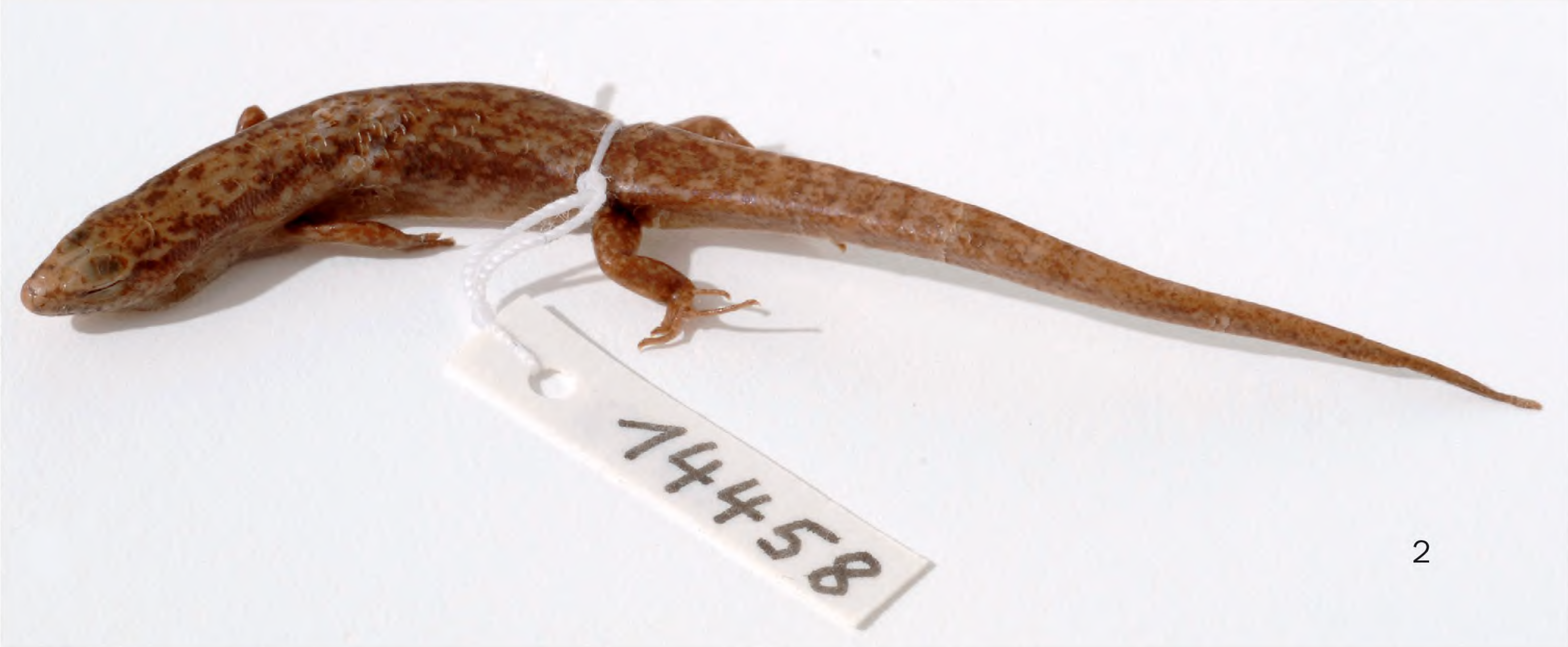
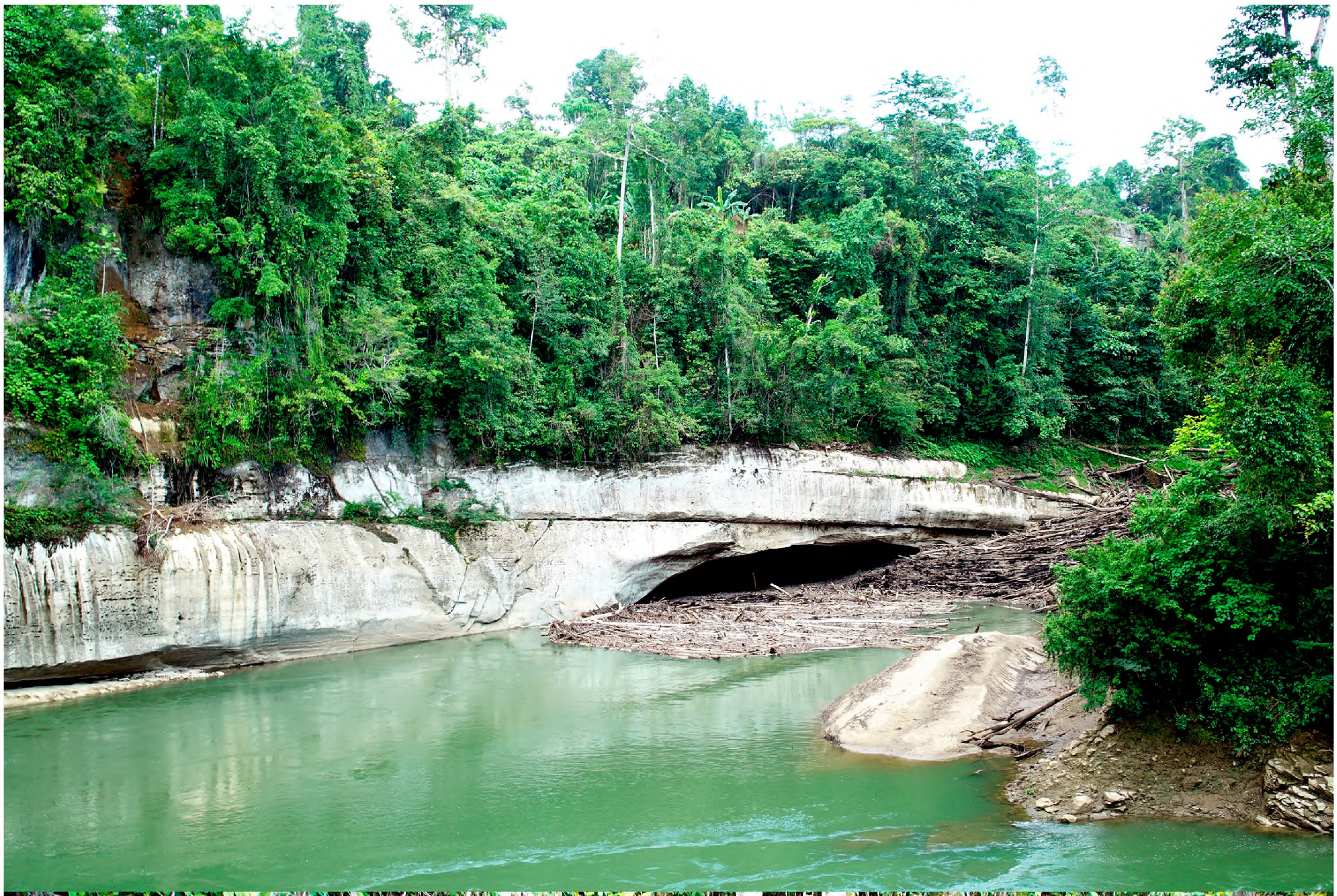


2

Figures 1-2. *Sphenomorphus consobrinus* (Peters, Doria, 1878). 1 – One of the syntypes (MSNG 27875) from "Batjan" (Pulau Bacan); 2 – Specimen from Halmahera (SMF 14458).

Plate 6



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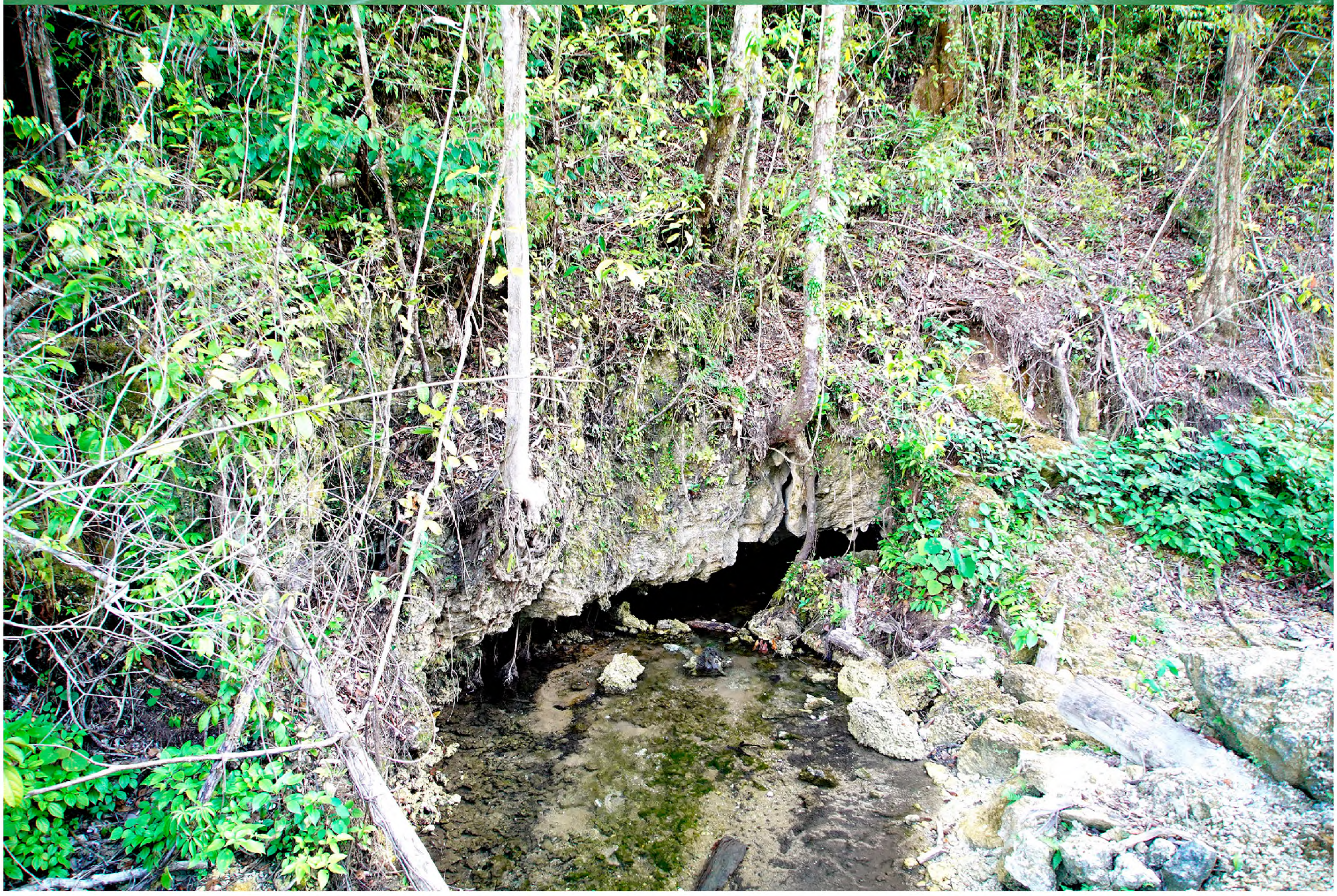

2

Figures 1-2. Dense low dry sclerophyll forest of the Ayamaru area on Doberai Peninsula, West New Guinea (photos: D. Telnov, 2015).